

After-Action Report
USS Sacramento
21 June 01 Oil Spill

USS Sacramento
Saltwater Marsh/Woodland Trail Maintenance
Beach Clean-Up

Presented to: Washington State Department of Ecology
Resource Damage Assessment Committee

Presented by: Navy Region Northwest
Naval On-Scene Coordinator

1) Location of Project:

The project was located at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Keyport (NUWC, Keyport) on the Kitsap Peninsula, north of Bremerton, WA and southeast of Poulsbo, WA. The Navy facility encompasses approximately 204 acres, at the head of Liberty Bay. NUWC Keyport has approximately 2.5 miles of coastline and is virtually surrounded by water.

2) Description of Completed Project:

On May 18 and 19, 2002, approximately 14 crew members from the USS Sacramento cleared overgrowth and deteriorating natural materials from the pathways and boardwalks of the saltwater marsh trail and woodland trails at NUWC, Keyport. Weed trimmers and machetes were used to cut back overgrown Scotch Broom, nettles and other vegetation to widen the trail for safe human passage. Vegetation was left to the side of the trail to inhibit future growth and provide natural decomposition and habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife. Wood chips were laid on muddy soft areas of the trail to provide solid footing for hiking and bridges were cleared of rotting natural materials. An old discarded metal file cabinet and wire netting were removed from an area off the woodland trail. Debris was also cleared from creek streams to allow natural flow. In addition, the crew performed a sweep of the beach to remove any trash and other non-native objects.

3) Describe briefly how this project will benefit resources potentially effected by oil spills:

The crew of the USS SACRAMENTO cleared back the overgrowth, re-stabilized the boardwalk areas, and inspected and repaired the existing signs. The overgrowth and sodden areas of the saltwater and woodland trails made safe passage impossible. Improvements to both trail systems has increased the opportunity for station personnel, their dependents and visiting guests to gain an appreciation for the natural habitat and local flora and fauna. The local chapter of the Audubon Society conducts the Christmas Bird Count and the saltmarsh trail is used to conduct their count. The project has provided improved access for the annual bird count. The Christmas bird count provides an international perspective on the population of migratory bird species and helps to identify trends in species decline.

The project also removed man-made debris from the beach and the saltwater marsh to improve the habitat quality for the local flora and fauna.

Photographs of project may be found at the end of this report.

4) The objectives of this project were met.

After the project was completed, the area was inspected by representatives of NUWC Keyport and Navy Region Northwest to insure that:

- 1) all objectives of the project had been met,
- 2) the trail system was improved; and
- 3) the project area was left as natural as possible.

The project was deemed a success and the area will be monitored in the future to insure the trails remain clear of overgrowth and passable.

5) Duration of the Project:

The crew worked for two days. Approximately 14 crew members on Saturday, and approximately 10 crew members on Sunday, as well as participation by NUWC, Keyport personnel on both days.



